LAMENTABLE NEWS FROM SEA;

Being a true

RELATION

HOW

A Ship call'd *The Cherry*, was lately caſt away, and all the men drown'd except Seven, who got upon a Rock, and remaining there without any Suſtenance, Five of the ſtrongeſt kill'd Two of their fellows, *Eat their Fleſh, and drank their Blood*, to aſſwage their Hunger and Thirſt; and thereby preſerved their own lives for the ſpace of Seven days and nights.

After which

Boats came and carried them to ſhore; where Two of the Five immediately *died*, one ran *mad*, and the other Two are ſtill alive and in health, atteſting the *Truth* of what is here related.

Animæ famelicæ quicquid amarum, dulce eſt.

With Allowance. *Ro. L'Eſtrange.*

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Lamentable News from Sea.

HE muſt certainly be a ſtranger to Humanity, and the Contexture of his own body, that can be ignorant of the prevalency of Hunger, or the reſiſtleſs Aſcendent it has over thoſe miſerable wretches that fall under its tyranny, to force them to actions which at other times they would nauſeate and abominate. We need not ſearch the muſty Records of Antiquity, nor be beholding onely to the teſtimony of Hiſtory, to prove the ſtupendious effects of Famine: 'Twas that, when *Jeruſalem* was inveſted by *Titus*, which cauſed tender Mothers firſt to murder and afterwards eat their own dear Children: 'Twas that made not onely Cats and Dogs, but Rats and all kind of Vermine ſeem Delicates to the half-famiſht Inhabitants of *Saguntum* in *Spain*, at that memo-

rable Siege; which gave occasion for the Proverb, to this day in use, *Saguntina Fames.* But amongst all Examples of hardship, *that* we are going to relate, happening about the beginning of *August* last, may deservedly be reckoned as none of the least sad and remarkable.

The Ship call'd *The Cherry* (a Merchantman belonging to *Denmark*) bound for *Holland*, in her Voyage thither meeting with very foul and tempestuous weather for several days, so that they were driven back upon their own Coasts not far from the Town of *Halmstadt*, was cast away, all the Passengers and Mariners being drown'd, except onely Seven, who by their excellent skill and abilities in Swimming, got to a Rock standing in the Sea, but within sight of Land, and with its top above the waves. Upon this they took shelter to rest their weary Limbs, and with spreading and waving their Cloaths and Caps towards the Land, endeavoured to signifie to the Country people their distress and misery; but all in vain: for those inhumane wretches, for a base sordid reason that

we

we ſhall by and by accquaint you with, were not yet at leiſure to help them.

So that continuing here on a bare Rock, without any Suſtenance whatſoever either to eat or drink, (for Sea-water increaſes Thirſt inſtead of aſſwaging it) their miſeries were inexpreſſible. Often they wiſht themſelves dead, and yet the ſight of Land and flattering hopes of Help every minute, made them unwilling to die. To avoid which, at laſt they found it impoſſible, without ſomething to ſupport decaying Nature, and then Hunger, which (according to the Proverb) eaſily *Breaks through Stone-walls*, made no difficulty of infringing the Laws of Nature, and preſcriptions of Morality: Self-preſervation is the firſt Article in Nature's *Magna Charta*, and when they come in unavoidable Competition with that, all other Cuſtoms muſt give place. In a word, they found the pinchings of Famine ſo intolerable, that Five of the ſtrongeſt confederating together ſet upon Two of the weakeſt, and kill'd them and Eat their Raw Fleſh, and Drank their Blood, preſerving it as much as they could,

feeding

feeding thereupon (*Horresco referens*) even when it was putrified: Nor had they any other Sustenance but this to keep them alive for the space of Seven days.

The Squeamish Reader may perhaps perswade himself to be half sick at this Relation; but as the Proverb says,

The Pidgeon never knoweth wo,
Till a Benting she doth go.

If he have but Courage enough to imagine himself in the same Circumstances, perhaps the sweetness of preserving Life might have made him as eager a Cannibal as any of them. And if Murder be in any case excusable, this Homicide may hope for some Indulgence, since indeed 'tis but a species of killing another *se Defendendo*, for necessary preservation of their own Beings.

After these remaining Five had continued in this deplorable condition Seven days and nights, the Inhabitants on the Land touch'd with Commiseration of their distress, which might have extorted Pity from the cruellest Savages, made out Boats for their Relief, and brought them miserably languishing and half dead to shore; where

where Two of them, either by the disagreeableness of such unnatural food, or (as 'tis thought) eating other meat too greedily after so long and pining an Abstinence, soon after they got to Land gave up the Ghost. A third reflecting with horrour on what he had done in murdering Two of his friends, and eating humane Flesh, the thoughts thereof made such strange Impressions on his weak and crazie Brain, that he ran mad, and continues in a raving distracted condition. The other Two being persons of a more vigorous constitution, though extreme weak, have made shift to survive all these Calamities, and were lately brought safe to *Copenhagen*, and there continue the Wonder and Discourse of all that City.

They affirm that the Country people might have much sooner assisted and relieved them from their misery, but refused so do, out of a wicked covetous designe they had to get and convey away what they could in the mean time of their Commodities cast on shore from the shipwrack'd Vessel, preferring that unjust and no better than Pyratick-gain, before the lives of those that were their own Country-men by Nation, and Brethren by Christian Profession. I wish and hope no such sordid unmerciful Spirits may be found on our Coasts: 'Tis a strange Cruelty to adde Misery to Affliction; to rob those that are already Shipwrack'd; to shew our selves more devouring than the Sea, more cruel than a Tempest. I am not ignorant that some Brutes living by the Sea-side, are never so joyful as in a Storm, and call

call whatever they can rifle from a Wrack (which sometimes 'tis fear'd they rather make than find) by the specious title of *God's goods*: But if they go on to covet and unjustly take other mens Commodities contrary to Equity and Charity, they will finde them in the end, the Devil's goods; and that they do not less hazard their Souls than frequently their Bodies for the getting of them.

——— *Quid non mortalia pectora cogis*
[*Auri sacra*] *fames?* ———

What will not Hunger prompt a man unto?
Or what for Lucre won't the wicked do?

OFFICE

Postscript.

IF *any question the Truth of this Relation, they may, for their better satisfaction, read the Substance thereof printed by Authority at* Cologne *the* 13th *of* August, *to be seen at Mr.* Pitman's *Coffee-house in* Ave Mary-lane *neer* Ludgate-street.

FINIS.